

What is claimed is:

1. A pigmented polymer composition comprising:

a) colorant particles; and

b) polymer particles comprised of polymerized units of phosphorus acid monomer and having first phosphorus acid groups, wherein:

i) said polymer particles are prepared by aqueous emulsion

polymerization of said phosphorus acid monomer at a pH of less than 2, or

ii) said pigmented polymer composition is substantially free of water soluble polymer bearing second phosphorus acid groups.

2. The pigmented polymer composition according to claim 1 further comprising white pigment.

3. The pigmented polymer composition according to claim 1 that is substantially free of white pigment.

4. The pigmented polymer composition according to claim 1 comprising from 0.1 to 30 volume % said colorant particle and from 1 to 50 volume % said polymer particle, based on the total dry weight of said pigmented polymer composition.

5. The pigmented polymer composition according to claim 1 wherein each of said polymer particles are multistage polymer particles comprising:

a) a first polymer comprising:

i) a polymerized unit of a multiethylenically unsaturated monomer,

ii) polymerized units of said phosphorus acid monomer, and

iii) said first phosphorus acid groups,

wherein said first polymer has a glass transition temperature in the range of from -60°C to 35°C; and

b) a second polymer having a glass transition temperature in the range of from -60°C to 35°C, wherein said second polymer is substantially free of said first phosphorus acid groups;

wherein the average weight ratio of said first polymer to said second polymer is in the range of from 1:2 to 1:20.

6. The pigmented polymer composition according to claim 1 wherein said polymer particles have a glass transition temperature of at least 35 °C.

7. A method for preparing a colored coating comprising the steps of:

a) providing a pigmented polymer composition comprising: colorant particles; and polymer particles comprised of polymerized units of phosphorus acid monomer and having first phosphorus acid groups, wherein:

i) said polymer particles are prepared by aqueous emulsion polymerization of said phosphorus acid monomer at a pH of less than 2, or

ii) said pigmented polymer composition is substantially free of water soluble polymer bearing second phosphorus acid groups;

b) applying said pigmented polymer composition onto a substrate; and

c) drying or allowing to dry said pigmented polymer composition that was applied onto said substrate, to provide said colored polymer composition.